



TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

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CONSULTATION

NATS Departure Route Proposal at London Stansted Airport

Takeley Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation for NATS Departure Route Proposal at Stansted Airport.

Takeley is the closest village to Stansted Airport and is adversely affected by noise. In particular by easterly departures after take-off on the adjacent Dover and Clacton Noise Preferential Routes as well as Stansted Airport ground noise.

NATS says that the benefits of the proposed change are:

1. Reduced CO₂
2. Reduced delay for Stansted Airport and neighbouring airports
3. Reduction in the number of people regularly overflown during the day

Takeley Parish Council believes that:

1. The reduction in CO₂ emissions by switching from the Dover to the Clacton route, compared with the total CO₂ emissions for all aircraft operating at Stansted, would be a negligible saving of less than 1%.
2. Reduced delay, achieved by continuous climb on the Clacton route, would also be negligible. NATS has published that in 2012, the lowest year on record for ATC delays in the UK attributable to NATS, the delay averaged just 1.6 seconds per flight. In any case, the Government's guidance is that continuous climb is considered to have an overall neutral impact on noise. It involves the redistribution of noise, with more noise at the beginning of the flight (i.e. in the vicinity of Takeley) and less noise further away from the airport.
3. Takeley is not directly over flown (i.e. not immediately under the Noise Preferential Route swathes) other than a part of the small settlement of Molehill Green to the north. Switching from the Dover to the Clacton route during the day would move traffic slightly further away from the eastern side of Takeley. Whilst visual intrusion would be reduced, the switching of routes would not necessarily provide an overall perceptible reduction of air noise levels in the village. There would be no reduction of airport ground noise levels and no reduction of sleep disturbance during the night.

Takeley Parish Council understands that the next phase of LAMP in 2018/2019 will propose a significant redesign of the Stansted routes together with airspace changes for Heathrow, Northolt and Luton. Furthermore there may be further airspace changes as a result of the Airports Commission work for a new runway in the south east of England and the subsequent decision by the Government in 2015 onwards.

Takeley Parish Council therefore concludes that this airspace change proposal:

1. Offers no tangible environmental noise benefits for Takeley residents
2. Offers negligible improvements for CO₂ emissions and flight delays
3. Cannot be assessed in the context of the next LAMP phase which will involve a significant redesign of the Stansted routes.

Takeley Parish Council therefore proposes that this departure route change be postponed until the next LAMP phase, when significant airspace changes will be proposed for Stansted, and after the Government has made its decision on the Airports Commission's final report. In so doing, this departure route change would be able to be assessed in the context of the whole airspace plan, include tangible environmental noise benefits for Takeley residents and the additional benefit of implementing Continuous Descent Approach for all arriving aircraft to the easterly runway at Stansted.

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